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Costa Rica

Tree Nuts

TREE NUTS AND DRIED FRUITS REPORT 2004

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Report Highlights:

This summary reflects the situation of Costa Rica imports of dried fruits and nuts

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
San Jose [CS1]
[CS]

WHY COSTA RICA PURCHASES MORE DRIED FRUITS AND NUTS FROM CHILE?

1. PRICE

Costa Rican importers get better prices from Chile than from the United States for these products.

2. DUTIES

Currently, the duties from Chile for all these products is 0% while from the United States, tree nuts, prunes and apricots pay 15%.

3. TRANSPORTATION

Most of the U.S. dried fruit exports to our country are shipped from California and it increases the shipping cost in excess and the service is regular. Chile instead, is very aggressive on transportation costs and the ships departs on a weekly basis.

4. QUALITY

Chile offers a very good quality of almonds, nuts and prunes. However, its productions is limited. The United States quality is excellent especially on prunes and raisins compared to Chile.

Some Costa Rican importers of these products mentioned that they have purchased dried fruits and tree nuts from Chile, which have been previously imported from the United States at a better price than the price offered by some U.S. exporters.

The highest export level was reached in 2001 with \$1,203 million. After that date, exports had suffered a decrease in approximately \$324,000 up to year 2003.

Post expects tree nuts and dried fruits from the United States will regain market share after CAFTA is approved.